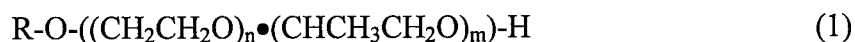


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claim 1 (withdrawn):** A water base ink for ink-jet recording comprising:  
a dispersible coloring agent;  
a propylene glycol ether; and  
a surfactant composed of a random copolymer represented by the following general formula  
(1):



wherein R represents an alkyl group having a number of carbon atoms of 3 to 5, and  $m = n = 50$  is satisfied.

**Claim 2 (withdrawn – previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 1;  
wherein a content ratio by weight of propylene glycol ether/surfactant is 2 to 6.7.

**Claim 3 (withdrawn - previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 1;  
wherein the propylene glycol ether is dipropylene glycol propyl ether.

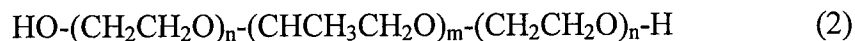
**Claim 4 (withdrawn - previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 1;  
wherein a content of the propylene glycol ether is 2 % by weight to 3 % by weight.

**Claim 5 (withdrawn – previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 1;

wherein the surfactant represented by the general formula (1) is contained by 0.1 to 3 % by weight.

**Claim 6 (withdrawn - previously presented):** An ink cartridge comprising the water base ink for ink-jet recording as defined in Claim 1.

**Claim 7 (withdrawn):** A water base ink for ink-jet recording comprising:  
a dispersible coloring agent;  
a propylene glycol ether; and  
a surfactant composed of a block copolymer represented by the following general formula (2):



wherein m represents an integer of 30 to 36, and n represents an integer of 13 to 24.

**Claim 8 (withdrawn - previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 7;

wherein the propylene glycol ether is dipropylene glycol propyl ether.

**Claim 9 (withdrawn - previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 7;

wherein a content of the propylene glycol ether is 2 % by weight to 3 % by weight.

**Claim 10 (withdrawn - previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 7;

wherein the surfactant represented by the general formula (2) is contained by 0.1 to 3 % by weight.

**Claim 11 (withdrawn - previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 7,

wherein a content ratio by weight of propylene glycol ether/surfactant is 2 to 6.7.

**Claim 12 (withdrawn - previously presented):** An ink cartridge comprising the water base ink for ink-jet recording as defined in Claim 7.

**Claim 13 (currently amended):** A water base ink for ink-jet recording comprising:

a ~~dispersible~~ self-dispersible coloring agent;

a propylene glycol ether; and

a surfactant represented by the following general formula (3):



wherein n represents an integer of 2 to 4, R<sup>1</sup> represents an alkyl group having a number of carbon atoms of 12 to 15, and M represents Na or triethanolamine; and

wherein the propylene glycol ether is dipropylene glycol propyl ether.

**Claim 14 (canceled)**

**Claim 15 (previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 13;

wherein a content of the propylene glycol ether is 2 % by weight to 3 % by weight.

**Claim 16 (previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 13;

wherein the surfactant represented by the general formula (3) is contained by 0.1 to 3 % by weight.

**Claim 17 (previously presented):** The water base ink for ink-jet recording according to Claim 13;

wherein a content ratio by weight of propylene glycol ether/surfactant is 5 to 10.

**Claim 18 (previously presented):** An ink cartridge comprising the water base ink for ink-jet recording as defined in Claim 13.

**Claim 19 (previously presented):** An ink-jet printer comprising:

an ink-jet head which has an ink flow passage formed of an Ni alloy and which discharges an ink; and

the ink cartridge as defined in Claim 18 which accommodates the ink to be supplied to the ink-jet head.

**Claim 20 (previously presented):** The ink-jet printer according to Claim 19;

wherein the ink flow passage is formed in a stack composed of sheets formed of an Ni-Fe alloy.